GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2947
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
USE OF ASPARTAME IN SOFT DRINKS
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the chemical sweetener "Aspartame" is being used in Diet or so called Zero Calorie soft drinks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the side effects of Aspartame on human beings in the long run; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to ban the use of Aspartame in soft drinks?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) The use of aspartame, an artificial sweetener is permitted in carbonated water upto maximum limit of 700 ppm with labeling requirements under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. As per the labelling requirements, every package of food which is permitted to contain artificial sweetener and any advertisement for such food shall carry the following label, namely:-

CONTAINS ARTIFICIAL SWEETENER AND FOR CALORIE CONSCIOUS

The maximum level prescribed for aspartame in carbonated water is considered as safe.The safety evaluation of aspartame has been done by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives(JECFA).The limit prescribed for aspartame in carbonated water under PFA Rules, 1955 is well below the Acceptable Daily Intake prescribed for aspartame (40mg/kg body weight) by the JECFA.

(c) Does not arise.